

Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

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Saturday, May 31, 2008

[THANKS TO TED GUSTIN FOR ARRANGING THIS DAY!]

THREE CHURCHES ON RUSSELL ROAD IN ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

10:00 AM

First Church of Christ - Scientist

1709 Russell Rd
Alexandria, VA 22301

M. P. Moller Organ 2 manuals

DIRECTIONS:

From I-495

Take exit 176B for VA-241 N/Telegraph Rd toward Alexandria 0.7 mi
Slight right at Telegraph Rd/VA-241 N 0.2 mi
Merge onto Duke St/VA-236 E via the ramp to Downtown Alexandria 0.4 mi
Turn left at Callahan Dr 0.2 mi (Callahan becomes Russell Road at the next light)
Continue on Russell Rd 1.0 mi; the church is on the right

From I-395

Take exit 5 to merge onto King St/VA-7 E 1.0 mi
Slight left at W Braddock Rd 1.0 mi
Turn left at Lloyds Ln 0.3 mi
Turn right at Russell Rd; the church is on the left

[crawl information continued next page]

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Articles and news may be submitted to the Editor electronically: music.director@gracealex.org

Dues due in October: \$14, mailed to Secretary-Treasurer (Checks payable to Hilbus Chapter, OHS)

11:00 AM

Immanuel Lutheran Church - LCMS

1801 Russell Rd
Alexandria, VA 22301

Berghaus Organ - 2 manuals

DIRECTIONS:

The church is directly across the street from First Church of Christ - Scientist
(on the same side of Russell Road)

12 NOON

Grace Episcopal Church

3601 Russell Rd
Alexandria, VA 22305

New One Manual DiGennaro-Hart Chamber Organ
Organ-Builder Michael Hart will discuss his new instrument

DIRECTIONS:

North on Russell Road to Grace Episcopal Church 1.2 miles
Park in the church's parking lot and follow the outside steps up to the main church entrance

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will take place during our visit to
Grace Church, Alexandria, Virginia on May 31, 2008

The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of Officers for your consideration:

Kevin Clemens, *Chair*
Tom Scheck, *Vice-Chair*
Barbara Birckner - *Secretary/Treasurer*

Election is for the 2008-2009 program year beginning in July 2008.

LUNCH FOLLOWING ON YOUR OWN OR AT

RT's Restaurant

3804 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia

DIRECTIONS:

North 1 block on Russell Road to Mt. Vernon Avenue, Right on Mt. Vernon,
or a 5-minute walk from the Grace Church parking lot.



The April 2008 Crawl - Reviewed by Tom Scheck

A very small group of Hilbus members joined a slightly larger group of members from the DC Chapter of the AGO on a warm and sunny April day to visit three churches in downtown Washington and to explore their organs.

We first visited First Baptist Church, a beautiful neo-Gothic building built in 1955, with stunning stained-glass windows and beautiful carved wood. Lon Schreiber, who was at National City Christian Church for 40 years and now serves First Baptist, told us this is not a Southern Baptist church. The organ began life in 1948 as a twelve-rank Möller, built for the previous church building. The organ was installed in the new building in 1955 and enlarged by Möller to 24 ranks. Newcomer Organ Co. added



First Baptist console

the “Echo” division in 1959. The addition of this division, comprised

of five soft ranks purchased from Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church, brought the total number of ranks to 29. This division is located with the main organ and has its own set of expression shades. The original two-manual console still controls the organ. Lon presented a well-chosen program to demonstrate the organ for us. We heard the full-bodied sounds one expects from a 1948 Möller, but also the brightness of ten mixture ranks. Despite the placement of the organ in chambers on both sides of the chancel speaking only into the chancel and despite the small size of the



First Baptist Church, DC

organ in relation to the size of the room, the sound carries well to the back of the church, certainly due in part to good acoustics, enhanced by a slate floor. Lon was joined on some selections by Clark Smith playing handbells.

1948/1955 Möller/1959 Newcomer, First Baptist Church

GREAT	SWELL	ECHO	PEDAL
Diapason 8'	Rohrflute 8'	Gedeckt 8'	Resultant 32'
Bourdon 8'	Viole de Gamba 8'	Echo Flute 8'	Contrabass 16'
Gemshorn 8'	Viole Celeste 8'	Celeste 8'	Bourdon 16'
Octave 4'	Principal 4'	Viola Aetheria 8'	Gedeckt 16'
Flute 4'	Harmonic Flute 4'	Viola Celeste 8'	Octave 8'
Nazard 2 2/3'	Plein Jeu III	Fern Flute 4'	Bourdon 8'
Super Octave 2'	Trompette 8'	Tremolo	Gedeckt 8'
Furniture IV	Clairon 4'	Great Chimes	Super Octave 4'
Cymbal III	Tremolo		Bourdon 4'
Tremolo	Swell 16'		Octavin 2'
Great 16'	Swell 4'		Double Trumpet 16'
Great 4'	Swell Unison		
Great Unison			

COUPLERS

Swell to Great 16'	Great to Pedal 8'
Swell to Great 8'	Swell to Pedal 8'
Swell to Great 4'	Swell to Pedal 4'

[Review continued next page]

We then walked a few blocks to Grace Reformed Church (UCC), another beautiful building, reportedly designed by Tiffany. Theodore Roosevelt worshiped at Grace Church and laid the cornerstone for the current building one hundred years ago. The organ is a 16-rank Möller built in 1931. Although buried in a chamber in the left front of the church, the organ has an attractive façade with beautiful woodwork. Some attendees noted that the façade is atypical of Möller and is likely from a previous organ. Speculation was that because Hilbourne Roosevelt's cousin worshiped here and because the organ façade is in the same style as the façades of some Roosevelt organs, the previous organ may have been a Roosevelt. The organ appears to have suffered no changes since it was installed. Although the organ has the full sound one expects of a Whitelegg Möller, it is not heard to its best advantage because of the buried chamber location and poor acoustics, marred by thick carpet. One curiosity of this organ is that the Great two-rank Mixture is actually a Principal-scaled cornet, with 2 2/3' and 1 3/5' pitches.



Grace UCC façade

1931 Möller, Grace Reformed Church

GREAT	SWELL	PEDAL
Open Diapason 8'	Bourdon 16'	Open Diapason 16'
Melodia 8'	Open Diapason 8'	Bourdon 16'
Dulciana 8'	Stopped Diapason 8'	Lieblich Gedeckt 16'
Principal 4'	Salicional 8'	Flute 8'
Fifteenth 2'	Vox Celeste 8'	Dulciana 8'
Mixture II	Orchestral Flute 4'	Tuba 8'
Tuba 8'	Salicet 4'	
Tremolo	Flute Twelfth 2 2/3'	COUPLERS
Chimes	Piccolo 2'	Swell to Great 16'
Great 16'	Oboe 8'	Swell to Great 8'
Great 4'	Vox Humana 8'	Swell to Great 4'
	Tremolo	Great to Pedal 8'
	Swell 16'	Swell to Pedal 8'
	Swell 4'	



Grace UCC console



Ascension & St. Agnes

We then walked down Massachusetts Avenue to the Church of the Ascension and Saint Agnes (Episcopal). This church has a rich history, including use as Pro-Cathedral of the Washington diocese prior to the opening of Bethlehem Chapel in National Cathedral. The first organ in this 1875 structure was a Roosevelt with mechanical action, located in the front of the church in what is now the Lady Chapel. In the 1960's, parish organist Robert Shone constructed a three-manual organ incorporating parts of the Roosevelt. That organ, as were its two successors, was installed in the rear gallery. Möller built a new organ in 1983, retaining two ranks from the Roosevelt. Although it was new, the Möller became unreliable within fifteen years, resulting in its replacement

in 2000 by Orgues Létourneau's Opus 68, with electric slider chests. Two ranks remain from the Roosevelt, an 8' Gedeckt and a 2' Spitz Flute, both in the Swell. Létourneau also retained some Möller pipes and incorporated a moderately-scaled 16' Open Wood that was destined for the scrap heap when Haig Mardirosian found it. It is from the 1919 organ in Calvary Episcopal Church. Charles Nazarian, noted for numerous organ

cases, designed the stunning case that enhances the visual beauty of Opus 68. This organ is one of a very small number of relatively new organs that I consider to be truly outstanding instruments. The parish is fortunate to have as its organist Haig Mardirosian, who is widely acclaimed as an organ consultant. There is little doubt that Haig's knowledge and skill as a consultant are in large part responsible for this organ being such a success. Haig told us he challenged Létourneau to build an instrument unlike any they had previously built, one with an English accent to complement the Anglo-Catholic liturgy of this parish. Haig said he had told Létourneau he wanted a Flute Celeste such as those found on many E. M. Skinner organs, and that he took representatives of the firm to visit an organ with a particularly good example, from which they took measurements. Opus 68 is crowned with a fine Tuba that is English with a slight American accent. Haig explored the myriad sonorities of the organ for us in a splendid improvisation before turning the console over to all who wanted to give it a whirl. Any who haven't yet heard this organ owe themselves a visit. Don't think just because you have heard other Létourneaus that you know what this organ sounds like. I have heard this organ numerous times. It remains as impressive to me today as the day I first heard it. Music in this room is enhanced by the church's acoustics, described in a parish booklet as "remarkable and exemplary."

2000 LÉTOURNEAU, CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION AND SAINT AGNES, OPUS 68

GREAT

Double Open Diapason 16' *12 pipes*
 Lieblich Gedeckt 16' (Choir)
 Open Diapason 8' *61 pipes*
 Second Diapason 8' *61 pipes*
 Harmonic Flute 8' *49 pipes*
 Stopped Diapason 8' *61 pipes*
 Octave 4' *61 pipes*
 Open Flute 4' *61 pipes*
 Fifteenth 2' *61 pipes*
 Cornet III (TC) 2 ²/₃' *147 pipes*
 Mixture V 1 ¹/₃' *305 pipes*
 Trumpet 8' *61 pipes*
 Callaway Tuba 8' (Choir)
 Tremulant
 Great 16'
 Unison Off

CHOIR

Lieblich Gedeckt 16' *12 pipes*
 Metal Gedeckt 8' *61 pipes*
 Gamba 8' *61 pipes*
 Flute Celeste I-II 8' *110 pipes*
 Principal 4' *61 pipes*
 Spindle Flute 4' *61 pipes*
 Octave 2' *61 pipes*
 Larigot 1 ¹/₃' *61 pipes*
 Sharp Mixture III-IV 1' *219 pipes*
 Cremona 8' *61 pipes*
 Tuba 8' *61 pipes*
 Tremulant
 Zimbelstern
 Choir 16'
 Unison Off
 Choir 4'

SWELL

Diapason 8' *61 pipes*
 Salicional 8' *61 pipes*
 Salicional Celeste 8' *54 pipes*
 Gedeckt 8' *61 pipes*
 Principal 4' *61 pipes*
 Chimney Flute 4' *61 pipes*
 Nazard 2 ²/₃' *61 pipes*
 Spitz Flute 2' *61 pipes*
 Tierce 1 ³/₅' *61 pipes*
 Full Mixture V 2' *305 pipes*
 Double Trumpet 16' *12 pipes*
 Trumpet 8' *61 pipes*
 Oboe 8' *61 pipes*
 Clarion 4' *12 pipes*
 Tremulant
 Swell 16'
 Swell 4'

PEDAL

Contra Bourdon 32' (digital)
 Open Wood 16' *32 pipes*
 Double Open Diapason 16' (Great)
 Bourdon 16' *32 pipes*
 Lieblich Gedeckt 16' (Choir)
 Major Octave 8' *12 pipes*
 Metal Principal 8' *32 pipes*
 Bourdon 8' *12 pipes*
 Lieblich Gedeckt 8' (Choir)
 Choral Bass 4' *32 pipes*
 Mixture IV 2 ²/₃' *128 pipes*
 Contra Trombone 32' *12 pipes*
 Trombone 16' *32 pipes*
 Double Trumpet 16' (Swell)
 Trumpet 8' *12 pipes*
 Clarion 4' (Swell)
 Callaway Tuba 8' (Choir)

COUPLERS

Swell to Great 16'
 Swell to Great 8'
 Swell to Great 4'
 Choir to Great 16'
 Choir to Great 8'
 Choir to Great 4'
 Swell to Choir 16'
 Swell to Choir 8'
 Swell to Choir 4'
 Great to Pedal 8'
 Swell to Pedal 8'
 Swell to Pedal 4'
 Choir to Pedal 8'
 Choir to Pedal 4'
 Great/Choir Transfer

SUMMARY

55 ranks
 38 independent stops
 8 extensions
 8 borrows
 1 electronic voice
 3098 pipes



Dates to remember:

May Crawl - Saturday, May 31st

June Crawl - Saturday, June 28th

Deadline for May Newsletter:

Tuesday, June 17th



Grace UCC windows



Clark Smith and Lon Schreiber (r) at First Baptist